

Injuries in Missouri

An Overview

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In 1999, 3550 Missourians died as a result of injuries, including unintentional and intentional injuries. Unintentional injuries are the fifth leading cause of death, suicide the tenth leading cause, and homicide the fifteenth leading cause of death among Missourians. In Missouri, more children and young adults, ages 1 to 35, die from unintentional injuries than from any other cause of death. Homicide is the second leading cause of death for children and young adults, ages 5 to 25. During the twentieth century (1900's), trauma replaced infectious diseases as the most important threat to Missouri's children.

- *Motor vehicle traffic is the number one cause of deaths among ages 1-34.*
- *Falls are the leading cause of unintentional deaths among the 65+ age group. It is the second and third leading cause of unintentional deaths among the 55-64 and 45-54 age groups respectively.*
- *Firearms play a significant role in homicides ages 10-44 and in suicides ages 10 to 64.*
- *Homicides appear as one of the ten leading causes of death as early as the <1 age group where it weighs in at number ten. It continues to rise as a leading cause through the 5-9 age group to the 15-24 age group where it is listed as the second leading cause of death.*
- *Homicides remain as one of the ten leading causes of death through age 44.*

Although the number of deaths caused by injuries is staggering, the number of non-fatal injuries totaled almost 600,000 in 1999. Many Missourians who survive injuries experience long-term or permanent disabilities resulting in time lost from work and family, as well as costly medical and rehabilitation expenses, pain, and suffering.

- *Unintentional injuries alone account for over 30,000 hospitalizations and 530,000 emergency room visits annually.*
- *Motor vehicle injuries are responsible for nearly 6,000 hospitalizations and 66,100 emergency room visits each year for all age groups.*
- *Falls cause over 16,000 hospitalizations and nearly 139,000 emergency room visits.*
- *Firearm related injuries account for over 650 hospitalizations and nearly 1,300 emergency room visits annually for all groups.*

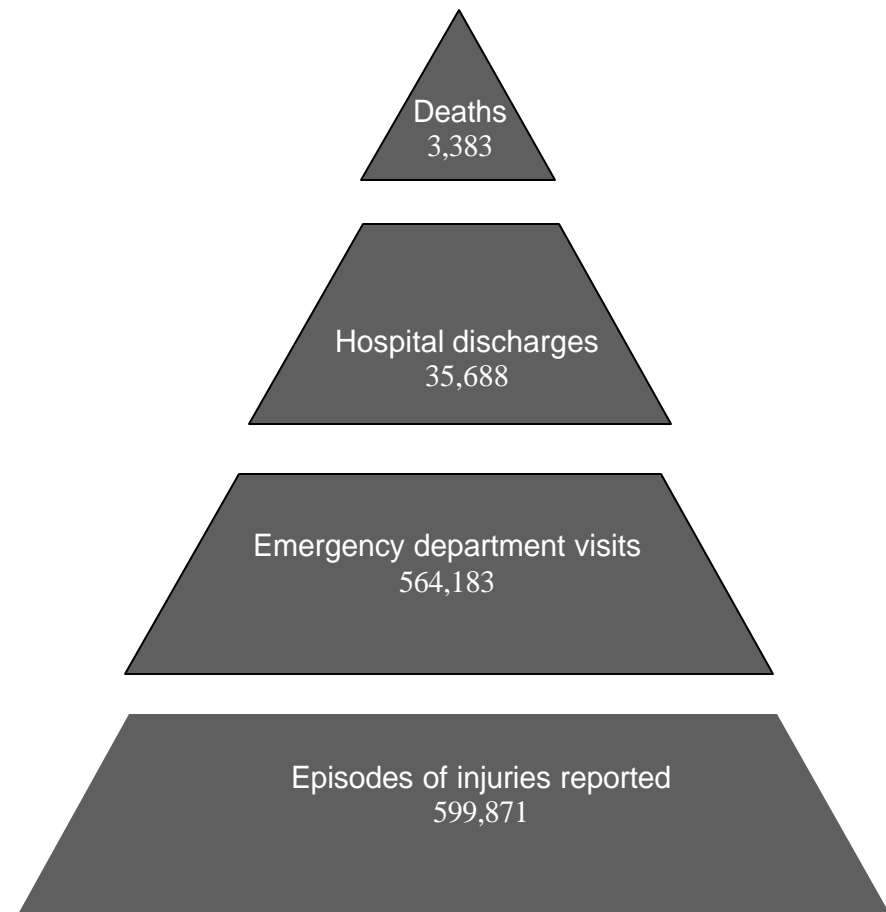
Missouri's 10 Leading Causes of Death 1999

	Age Groups										
Rank	<1	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	All Ages
1	Congenital Anomalies 117	Unintentional Injury 35	Unintentional Injury 28	Unintentional Injury 43	Unintentional Injury 344	Unintentional Injury 264	Heart Disease 360	Malignant Neoplasms 991	Malignant Neoplasms 1,994	Heart Disease 15,176	Heart Disease 17,974
2	Short Gestation 101	Congenital Anomalies 8	Homicide 12	Homicide 8	Homicide 114	Suicide 124	Unintentional Injury 356	Heart Disease 788	Heart Disease 1,539	Malignant Neoplasms 8,722	Malignant Neoplasms 12,186
3	SIDS 57	Malignant Neoplasms 7	Malignant Neoplasms 9	Malignant Neoplasms 7	Suicide 106	Homicide 91	Malignant Neoplasms 346	Unintentional Injury 255	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 302	Cerebro-vascular 3,567	Cerebro-vascular 3,950
4	Maternal Pregnancy Comp. 34	Homicide 5	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 3	Suicide 7	Malignant Neoplasms 35	Malignant Neoplasms 74	Suicide 160	Suicide 105	Cerebro-vascular 206	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 2,643	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 3,068
5	Placenta Cord Membranes 28	Meningitis 4	Anemias 1	Congenital Anomalies 5	Heart Disease 19	Heart Disease 72	Homicide 79	Cerebro-vascular 103	Diabetes Mellitus 200	Influenza & Pneumonia 1,557	Unintentional Injury 2,465
6	Atelectasis 27	Septicemia 3	Cerebro-vascular 1	Cerebro-vascular 2	Cerebro-vascular 5	HIV 34	HIV 73	Diabetes Mellitus 103	Unintentional Injury 167	Diabetes Mellitus 1,193	Influenza & Pneumonia 1,716
7	Circulatory System Disease 22	Perinatal Period 2	Congenital Anomalies 1	Diabetes Mellitus 2	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 5	Cerebro-vascular 15	Liver Disease 57	Liver Disease 95	Liver Disease 81	Unintentional Injury 953	Diabetes Mellitus 1,554
8	Unintentional Injury 20	Six Tied 1	Influenza & Pneumonia 1	Anemias 1	Congenital Anomalies 5	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 10	Cerebro-vascular 48	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 80	Influenza & Pneumonia 79	Alzheimer's Disease 897	Alzheimer's Disease 914
9	Necrotizing Enterocolitis 13	Six Tied 1	Ten Tied 1	Chronic Low. Respiratory Disease 1	Three Tied 3	Diabetes Mellitus 9	Diabetes Mellitus 44	Septicemia 38	Suicide 67	Nephritis 790	Nephritis 907
10	Homicide 11	Six Tied 1	Ten Tied 1	Heart Disease 1	Three Tied 3	Influenza & Pneumonia 9	Influenza & Pneumonia 30	Two Tied 33	Nephritis 66	Septicemia 487	Suicide 700

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The economic costs to society resulting from injuries are high. The direct cost is only the beginning as disability from injury results in loss of productivity. In 1999, the hospital costs for emergency room and inpatient care related to injuries exceeded \$887.9 million. The greatest portion of those hospital costs was attributed to unintentional injuries at about \$785.5 million, followed by assault at over \$41.9 million, and self inflicted injuries at over \$20.8 million. Of these costs, over \$24.6 million were paid by Medicaid. These costs only reflect hospital costs; the costs of going to a private physician and rehabilitation are not included in these figures.

Nationally, more than five million life years are lost; and in Missouri, nine life years per 100 injured persons are lost. The costs to Missouri and other states (including medical costs, work lost, and insurance claims expense) now exceeds \$325 billion annually.



Burden of injury 1999

Figure represents all injuries regardless of intent.